

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced today \$1.15 million for infrastructure, healthcare, and security projects along the U.S.-Mexico border in the FY 2008 Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) and Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bills.

"As the only Texas-Mexico border member currently serving of the House Appropriations Committee, I am working every day to secure funding for key infrastructure development such as development of a border law enforcement training center, and expansion of rural healthcare services," said Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez. "This is just the first step in the funding process for these key healthcare and border law enforcement projects. We still have a long way to go before these funding bills are sent to the President for his final approval, but I would say that this is a very positive first step."

Within the LHHS, and CJS Appropriations bills, Congressman Rodriguez secured funding for 4 key projects in West Texas:

- **\$600,000 to build a border law enforcement training center in Eagle Pass**, providing regional, nation, and international public safety training for law enforcement to address homeland security national preparedness goals;
- **\$175,000 for rural healthcare services for Terrell and Pecos Counties through Cactus Health Services, Inc.**, a Federally Qualified Health Center that will deliver preventative and primary healthcare services. The funds will be used to expand dental services in the Terrell County clinic and to provide dental services in the Pecos County clinic once a week. Additionally, funds would be used to deliver expanded vision care in both counties and to provide exercise and nutritional services in Pecos County;
- **\$350,000 for at risk youth programs through Baptist Child and Family Services**, who work with families on or near the border (including Val Verde, Bexar, Kinney, Sutton, Crockett counties) through their Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR) program. The program provides intensive counseling services to youth in at-risk situations and their families with the goal of reducing family conflicts, child abuse, and preventing problems of truancy and delinquent behaviors before they enter the juvenile justice system;
- **\$25,000 to acquire an interoperable communication system for the City of Presidio** to allow the Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services, and utilities to

communicate with each other in case of extreme local emergencies.

The FY 2008 LHHS and CJS Appropriations bills must still be approved by the full House and will then proceed through a Conference Committee with the Senate before it can be sent to the President.

Congressman Rodriguez is a Member of the House Appropriations Committee.

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